

Message Text

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REF: A) SINGAPORE 1991; B) BANGKOK 12988;
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1. THIS IS IN RESPONSE TO THE INFORMAL POINTS RAISED BY
MFA ECONOMIC DIVISION CHIEF LEE CHIONG GIAM. WE HAVE
KEPT CONGRESSIONAL SCHEDULES IN MIND IN PROPOSING DATES
FOR THE US-ASEAN TALKS. WHILE THE JULY DATES WE HAD
SUGGESTED WERE A LITTLE SAFER IN THIS RESPECT, THE AUGUST
3-4 DATES ARE ALSO QUITE SUITABLE IF PRESENT CONGRESSIONAL
SCHEDULES HOLD FIRM. THE HOUSE IS CURRENTLY SCHEDULED FOR

A TWO WEEK RECESS THE LAST TWO WEEKS IN AUGUST WITH ADJOURNMENT SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 1. THE ONE WEEK SENATE RECESS IS SCHEDULED FOR THE LAST WEEK OF AUGUST WITH NO ADJOURNMENT DATE SET AS YET.

2. THERE IS ONE UNPREDICTABLE ELEMENT. THERE WILL BE PRESSURES IN AN ELECTION YEAR, ESPECIALLY IN THE HOUSE, TO MOVE UP THE RECESS DATE TO THE FIRST PART OF AUGUST WITH THE IDEA OF STAYING OUT THE WHOLE MONTH. ALTERNATIVELY, IT MIGHT BE DECIDED TO ADJOURN EARLY AND NOT RETURN AFTER

RECESS, MEANING THE CONGRESS COULD BE OUT DURING SEPTEMBER. WE WILL BE KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH THIS SITUATION. SHOULD IT APPEAR CONGRESS MIGHT BE LEANING TOWARDS MOVING THE RECESS DATES FORWARD, WE COULD CONSIDER SEPTEMBER CONTINGENCY DATES FOR THE US-ASEAN TALKS. AS WE HAVE POINTED OUT PREVIOUSLY, HOWEVER, HOLDING THE US-ASEAN TALKS IN CLOSE CONJUNCTION WITH THE US GENERAL ASSEMBLY OPENING (SEPTEMBER 19) WOULD DIFFUSE THE ATTENTION ACCORDED ASEAN. WE BELIEVE IT IS OUR MUTUAL INTEREST TO CONTINUE WORKING TOWARD THE AUGUST 3-4 DATES.

3. CONCERNING THE GOS IDEA FOR A US-SPONSORED TRAINING INSTITUTE IN ELECTRONICS AS A POSSIBLE US-ASEAN REGIONAL

PROJECT, WE SUGGEST THAT EMBASSY SINGAPORE REMIND MR. LEE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT U.S. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION REQUIRES THAT US DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION MUST FOCUS PRIMARILY ON HELPING MEET THE BASIC NEEDS OF THE LOWER INCOME PEOPLE IN THE RECEIPT COUNTRIES. THIS POINT WAS DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH IN OUR TALKS IN MANILA AND WAS REITERATED IN OUR WRITTEN RESPONSES TO ASEAN MEMORANDAS 5 AND 6. IT IS VERY UNLIKELY THAT AN ELECTRONIC TRAINING INSTITUTE COULD QUALIFY UNDER THOSE CRITERIA. SHOULD ASEAN'S PRINCIPAL MOTIVATION BE TO ACQUIRE SOME US TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR SUCH AN INSTITUTE, WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP ON A REIMBURSABLE BASIS UNDER THE REIMBURSABLE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. THE POSSIBILITY OF US PRIVATE SECTOR SUPPORT MIGHT ALSO BE EXPLORED, PARTICULARLY IF A US-ASEAN BUSINESS COUNCIL IS ESTABLISHED. SPEAKING IN TERMS OF OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION, HOWEVER, WE WOULD ENCOURAGE THE GOS TO IDENTIFY PROPOSALS WHICH ARE MORE DIRECTLY RELATED TO MEETING BASIC HUMAN NEEDS.

4. FOR MANILA: WE WILL REPLY SEPARATELY TO MRS. MANALO'S SUGGESTION ABOUT INCLUDING PARLIAMENTARIANS IN ASEAN DELEGATIONS. VANCE

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